

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached one (1) sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. In Figure 1, reference numerals 161, 162, and 111 are provided and the reference line associated with reference numeral 30 is shortened to point more clearly to a connection of the housing (11) to the housing shell (29). No new matter has been added.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 13 to 15, claims 16 to 26 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received from the International Bureau.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper and cited references.

II. Objection to the Drawings

As regards the objection to the drawings, the Examiner will note that a replacement sheet of drawings is submitted herewith, in which reference numerals 161, 162, and 111 have been inserted in Figure 1 and the reference line associated with reference numeral 30 has been shortened to point more clearly to a connection of the housing (11) to the housing shell (29). No new matter has been added. With regard to reference numeral 39, the current amendment to the specification replaces the reference numeral 39 with reference numeral 34, thereby rendering moot the present objection with respect to reference numeral 39. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present objection has been obviated, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

III. Objection to the Specification

As regards the objection to the specification, the Examiner will note that the paragraph beginning on page 6 line 8 has been replaced with an amended paragraph, in which the term --swelling-- replaces "swells," at page 6, line 14 and --34-- replaces "39" at page 6, line 16. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present objection has been obviated, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Objections to Claims 13 to 26

As regards the objections to claims 13 to 26, as an initial matter, claims 13 to 15 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present objection with respect to claims 13 to 15. The objections to claims 17 and 21 are obviated by the amendments made to claims 17 and 21. The objections to claim 13 are addressed in connection with the rewriting of claims 16 and 19 into independent form. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present objections have been obviated, and withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

V. Rejection of Claims 13 to 26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

As regards the rejection of claims 13 to 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as an initial matter, claims 13 to 15 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present rejection with respect to claims 13 to 15. Claims 16 and 19, which have been rewritten in independent form, do not include the phrase "used for contacting." In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

VI. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claims 16 and 19 to 24. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 16 and 19 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 16 and 19 are in condition for immediate allowance. Claims 20 to 24 ultimately depend from claim 19 and are therefore also believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

In addition, claims 17 and 25 have been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 16, and claims 18 and 26 now ultimately depend from claim 16. As such, it is believed that claims 17, 18, 25 and 26 are in condition for immediate allowance.

VII. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As regards the rejection raised under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), it is believed and respectfully submitted that the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 13

to 15 and the amendments to claims 17 and 25 render the present rejection moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

VIII. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 20, 2007 By:

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